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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

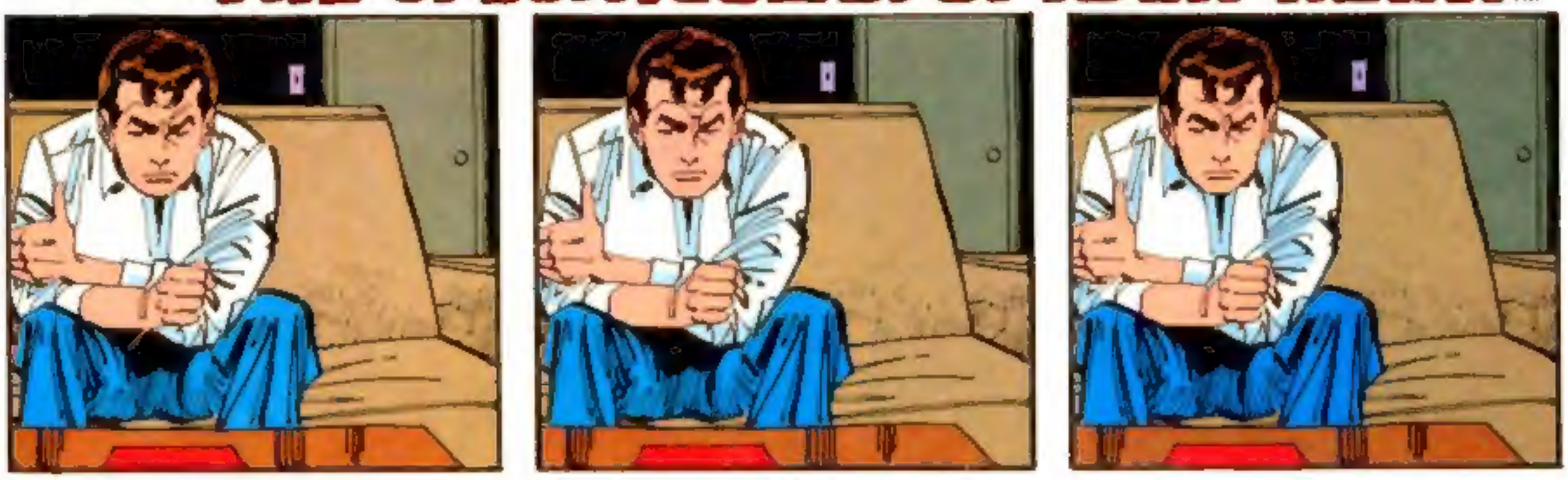
INSIDE: THE FINAL BATTLE WITH THE **GREEN GOBLIN!**

PLUS: BONUS **GATEFOLD POSTER!**

PLUS: THE **ORIGIN** OF **SPIDER-MAN!**

*BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™



KLIK
SURPRISE!
THEY HADDA DO SOME REWRITES ON THE *HOSPITAL* SCENE--SO THEY SENT ME HOME *EARLY*. "WHICH IS FINE BY *ME*," I TOLD THEM--
--"'CAUSE THAT MEANS I GET TO SPEND THE AFTERNOON WITH MY *HONEY*."

JUST LET ME HANG UP MY *COAT*--
--AND THEN I'M ALL *YOURS*.
MMMMM. SOMETIMES I THINK I'D GIVE UP THE WHOLE ACT-THING IN A *SECOND* IF I KNEW IT WOULD ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS--
JUST THE *TWO* OF US, ALL COSY 'N' WARM 'N'--
PETER?
WHAT *IS* IT, HONEY? YOU LOOK ABSO-LUTELY *GRIM*.
PETER...SAY SOMETHING. IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF *JOKE*, IT'S NOT FU--
TINK-A-TINK-A-TINK-A-TINK-A-TINK-TINK
IS THAT A *JACK*-IN-THE BOX?
WHAT IN THE *WORLD* ARE YOU DOING WITH A *JACK*-IN-THE--

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*A DOUBLE-SIZE SHOCKER CELEBRATING **THIRTY YEARS** OF WEB-SPINNING WONDERMENT -- COURTESY OF:*
J.M. DeMATTEIS, *WRITER* ★ SAL BUSCEMA, *ARTIST* ★ JOE ROSEN, *LETTERER* ★ BOB SHAREN, *COLORIST* ★
ERIC FEIN, *ASSISTANT EDITOR* ★ DANNY FINGEROTH, *EDITOR* ★ TOM DeFALCO, *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*

STAN LEE, STEVE DITKO, AND JOHN ROMITA, SR., *SOUL & INSPIRATION*

LIZ...?

I'M...I'M ALL *RIGHT.*

NO, YOU'RE *NOT.* YOU'RE FALLING *APART.* THE WHOLE MESS WITH *HARRY* HAS GOT YOU--

MOMMY...?

WHAT'S *WRONG?* WHY'RE YOU *CRYING?*

IT'S NOTHING, *NORMAN.* MOMMY... MOMMY'S *FINE.* UNCLE *MARK* AND I WERE JUST--

NORMAN?

SWEETHEART?

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

I *FOUND* IT. IN MY ROOM. WHEN I WOKE UP FROM MY *NAP*.

DID I DO SOMETHING *WRONG*? ARE YOU GONNA *YELL* AT ME?

NO, NORMIE... *NO*--YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING *WRONG*.

JUST GIVE IT OVER *HERE*... GIVE IT TO UNCLE--

...UNCLE...

GOTCHA.

...YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOUR *AUNT MAY* GAVE YOU THIS?

SHE RAN INTO *HARRY* ON THE STREET.* HE WAS *CHARMING*, SHE SAID. TOLD HER HE WAS GOING OUT OF TOWN, BUT HE WONDERED IF SHE COULD PASS A *PACKAGE* ON TO ME--

WHEN I OPENED IT *UP*-- "POP, GOES THE *GOBLIN*."

*LAST ISSUE. -- DANNY

THIS IS TOO MUCH! WE'VE HARDLY HAD A CHANCE TO CATCH OUR BREATHS AFTER ALL THAT MADNESS WITH THE *VULTURE**--AND NOW IT'S *HARRY* AGAIN?

I NEED A COUPLE OF *ADVIL*.

HARRY. NOW.

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT.

*ALSO LAST ISSUE. -- DANNY

NO... *NOT* HARRY.

THE GREEN GOBLIN!

KRUNCH

PE-TER!!!

MARY JANE! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S--

OH, NO!

YOU... YOU DIDN'T PUT THAT THERE... DID YOU?

NO.

THAT MEANS HE WAS HERE! HE WAS IN OUR HOUSE! HE--

DOWN!

FWOOOSH

GOOD THING MY *SPIDER-SENSE* WARNED ME IN TIME! WE COULD'VE BEEN--

BUT, PETER...! *LOOK--!*

THAT... THING--IT WAS JUST--

STUFFED WITH *PAPER*. JUST AN OVER-SIZED *PARTY* FAVOR.

HE'S *PLAYING* WITH ME.

GIVE A LITTLE *GOBLIN*-IN-THE-BOX TO MY AUNT. LEAVE AN EXPLODING *SPIDER-MAN* IN OUR BED.

WELL, I GET THE *MESSAGE!* LOUD AND *CLEAR!*

PETER ... PETER, IF HE WAS DOWN *HERE*--WHAT ABOUT *UPSTAIRS*? WHAT ABOUT *LIZ* AND LITTLE *NORMAN*?

YOU DON'T THINK HARRY'D HURT *THEM*, DO YOU? NOT HIS *WIFE* AND *SON*?

HARRY WOULDN'T HURT THEM--

--BUT *THE GOBLIN* IS ANOTHER MATTER *ENTIRELY!*

...YOU THINK WE DID THE RIGHT THING-- USING THAT EXTRA KEY LIZ GAVE US TO JUST BARGE *IN* LIKE THIS?

I MEAN, THE APARTMENT'S EMPTY--THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING *WRONG*--

HE WAS *HERE*, MJ! I CAN FEEL--

--IT...

PETER PARKER ARACHNID

GOTCHA!

GOTCHA!

--AWAKE AT LAST! MY BELOVED *BROTHER-IN-LAW*--

--MY PRECIOUS *WIFE*--

--AND THE *SON* I LOVE MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF!

NOW DON'T WORRY... THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS WILL PASS IN A MINUTE... YOU'LL ALL FEEL *FINE*.

BUT NOT AS FINE AS *I* FEEL-- WELCOMING YOU *HOME*.

I RAISE MY GLASS TO YOU... MARK, LIZ, NORMAN... AND OFFER A *TOAST*--

--TO OUR *FAMILY*--

--TO THE *OSBORNS*--!

MAY THE BONDS OF LOVE AND TRUST THAT HAVE HELD US *TOGETHER* ALL THESE YEARS--

--CONTINUE TO *ENDURE*--

--TILL THE *END OF TIME!*

AH! I DON'T THINK ANY WINE HAS EVER TASTED AS *SWEET!*

I DON'T THINK ANY *LIFE* HAS EVER BEEN AS BLESSED AS *MINE!*

NOW WHAT'S WITH THAT *FROWN*, NORMIE? IS IT THIS *COSTUME*? DON'T LET IT SCARE YOU, BUDDY--

--IT'S JUST *ME*. IT'S JUST *DADDY*.

I TOLD YOU I'D COME BACK... AND I *HAVE!*

DADDY'S BACK--AND YOU, ME, 'N' MOMMY-- WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE BEST LIFE! THE VERY *BEST!*

FROM NOW ON, SON-- WE'RE GOING TO BE *HAPPY!*

HAPPY!

YAAAAYY! *DADDY'S* BACK! *DADDY'S* BACK!

COME *ON*, LIZ! DANCE WITH US! FATHER MOTHER, AND CHILD... A DANCE OF REUNION! A DANCE OF *LOVE!*

LIZ? *HONEY?*

Y'KNOW WHAT NORMIE?

WHAT?

I THINK MOMMY'S A LITTLE *WORRIED*. BUT SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, *DOES* SHE?

I...I DON'T *THINK* SO.

OF *COURSE* SHE DOESN'T!

LIZ... MY LOVE... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE *AFRAID* OF. WE'RE *TOGETHER* AGAIN. WE'RE A *FAMILY* AGAIN.

AND THINGS ARE GOING TO BE BETTER THAN *EVER*. I *PROMISE*.

GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE NOT HARRY! YOU'RE *NOT!*

I WANT TO GO *HOME!*

PLEASE-- JUST LET US GO--

--*HOME*.

BUT, MY DARLING YOU *ARE* HOME.

RIGHT

WHERE

YOU

BELONG

NOW COME BACK TO THE TABLE, SWEETHEART. SIT DOWN, HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING TO EAT--AND I'LL EXPLAIN *EVERYTHING*.

I THINK MAYBE YOU OUGHTTA START EXPLAINING THINGS RIGHT *NOW*, HARRY.

DO YOU KNOW HOW *WORRIED* LIZ HAS BEEN ABOUT YOU? HOW WORRIED WE'VE *ALL* BEEN?

NOW, LOOK WHATEVER'S HAPPENED.. WHATEVER'S PUSHED YOU OVER THE *EDGE* LIKE THIS... LET US *HELP*--

- LET US--

FWOOOM!

"OVER THE EDGE"?!

ARE YOU CALLING ME CRAZY?!

YOU RE THE ONE WHO BLASTED ME WITH A *PUMPKIN-BOMB* WITH YOUR SON JUST TWO FEET *AWAY*--

--SO *YOU* TELL *ME*.

JUST A *MINOR* EXPLOSIVE TO MAKE A *POINT*, MARK. BUT IF I'D *WANTED* TO, MY DEAR BROTHER-IN-LAW, I COULD'VE KILLED YOU ON THE *SPOT*.

I DON'T *THINK* SO, HAR. *THE MOLTEN MAN* DOESN'T GO DOWN THAT EASY.

OR DID YOU FORGET I HAVE *SUPER-STRENGTH*?

YOU'VE GOT A *LOT* TO *LEARN*, MARK--AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE *HARD* LESSONS--

--BUT THE SOONER YOU *LEARN* THEM, THE *BETTER*!

SPAKOW!

KRASSH!

LESSON ONE: I'M NOT THE SAME MAN I WAS BEFORE

--AND NO ONE --NOT *YOU*, NOT *SPIDER-MAN*,.. *NO ONE*,..WILL *EVER* HURT ME *AGAIN*!

LESSON TWO: WE'RE *FAMILY*,.. WE'RE THE *OSBORNS*-- AND THE OSBORNS STICK *TOGETHER*!

SO DON'T TRY TO *DIVIDE* US, MARK,..DON'T TRY TO PUT DOUBTS OR SUSPICIONS INTO MY WIFE'S *HEAD*,..DON'T TRY TO TURN MY SON *AGAINST* ME! BECAUSE, IF YOU *DO*--

--I SWEAR I'LL *KILL* YOU--DO YOU *HEAR* ME?

I'LL *KILL* YOU!

I HATE THIS! I *HATE* IT!

OR AT LEAST.. HE *USED* TO BE.

ALL THAT'S BEEN *POISONED*... BY THE GHOST OF HARRY'S FATHER: *NORMAN OSBORN, SENIOR*--THE *ORIGINAL* GREEN GOBLIN.

HAVING AN ABUSIVE PSYCHO LIKE OSBORN FOR A FATHER WAS HARD *ENOUGH* FOR HARRY. BUT FINDING OUT THAT HIS FATHER WAS THE GOBLIN... AND THAT THE GOBLIN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR GWEN STACY'S *DEATH*. WAS THE LAST STRAW.

ALL THESE YEARS AS SPIDER MAN... ALL I'VE BEEN *THROUGH*.. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I'VE EVER FACED *ANYTHING* AS AWFUL AS THIS *MESS* WITH HARRY.

I MEAN, THE GREEN GOBLIN ISN'T JUST ANOTHER POWER-CRAZED SUPER-VILLAIN... HE'S MY *BEST FRIEND!*

OR MAYBE *I* WAS THE LAST STRAW: AFTER ALL, NORMAN OSBORN *DIED* TRYING TO KILL SPIDER-MAN.

WHAT MUST IT HAVE *BEEN* LIKE FOR HARRY WHEN HE FOUND OUT HIS *BEST FRIEND*- WAS HIS FATHER'S *GREATEST ENEMY?*

HE'S BEEN TRYING FOR *YEARS* TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER--FIND A WAY TO BALANCE ALL HIS CONFLICTING FEELINGS ABOUT HIS FATHER... ABOUT GWEN... ABOUT *ME*.

SEEKING THAT BALANCE HAS PUSHED HARRY INTO MADNESS MORE THAN *ONCE*-- DRIVEN HIM TO TAKE ON THE GOBLIN IDENTITY *HIMSELF*-- BUT HE'S *ALWAYS* MANAGED TO FIND HIS WAY BACK.

BUT I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT *THAT* MUCH PAIN DOESN'T JUST DISAPPEAR. MAYBE IT *NEVER* GOES AWAY COMPLETELY.

SO WHY WAS I SURPRISED WHEN HARRY SNAPPED AGAIN-- WHEN HE BECAME THE GOBLIN AGAIN AND CAME *AFTER* ME . BLAMING *SPIDER-MAN* FOR ALL THE THINGS HE COULDN'T BEAR TO BLAME ON HIS *FATHER*?

AND WHY DID I LET HIM GET *AWAY*? *

I'M *STILL* NOT SURE - AND I'M EVEN *LESS* SURE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WHEN I FACE HIM *TONIGHT.*

BUT I *AM* GOING TO FACE HIM--

--AND I PRAY THAT I CAN FIND A WAY *OUT*--

--FOR *ALL* OF US.

*ISSUE #184 · DANNY

...NOW, MARY JANE.. PLEASE DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, DEAR--

-- BUT WHY EXACTLY ARE YOU *HERE*?

WHY AM I *HERE*?

BECAUSE THERE'S A *MANIAC* OUT THERE WHO KNOWS THAT PETER IS SPIDER-MAN -- AND WE BOTH THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER IF I WAS *WITH* YOU--

--JUST IN CASE.

IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE, *AUNT MAY*--

--I GOT THIS... CRAZY URGE FOR A LITTLE *PAJAMA PARTY*, Y'KNOW... JUST THE *GIRLS*.

WE CAN STAY UP LATE AND TALK AND--

AND JUST LIKE THAT-- YOU DECIDED TO COME *OVER*? AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK AT *NIGHT*?

MAY'S NO FOOL: SHE CAN SEE HOW *EDGY* I AM. BUT WHAT CAN I *SAY*? I DON'T WANT HER TO EVEN *SUSPECT* THAT--

NOW, YOU TELL ME THE *TRUTH*, DEAR -- DID YOU AND PETER HAVE A *FIGHT*?

BINGO!

WELL... YES... I GUESS WE *DID*. IT... IT WASN'T ANY-THING *BIG*, MAY -- BUT I... I JUST GOT SO *ANGRY* THAT I PACKED A BAG AND STORMED *OUT* OF THE HOUSE --

THAT'S IT, GIRL -- LIE. LIE TO ONE OF THE DEAREST SOULS YOU'VE EVER KNOWN--

BUT... WHEN I WALKED OUT THE DOOR... I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO *GO*... WHO TO *TURN* TO--

--AND TELL YOURSELF IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.

SO YOU CAME TO *ME*? I'M *TOUCHED*. I TRULY *AM*.

YOU KNOW, *BEN* AND I HAD OUR SHARE OF SPATS WHEN WE WERE FIRST MARRIED.

YOU'LL WORK IT *OUT*, DEAR.

CHANCES ARE WE'RE WORRYING OVER NOTHING. IT'S PETER THE GOBLIN'S INTERESTED IN... NOT ME, NOT MAY. BUT, AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY...

OH, YOU NOTICED THE *FLOWERS*. *LOVELY*, AREN'T THEY?

MMMM. FROM *WILLIE*?

NO. IT WAS THE *SWEETEST* THING. THE NOTE SAID HE WANTED TO THANK ME FOR GIVING PETER THAT LITTLE *GIFT*

NOTE? FROM *WHO*?

WHY... FROM PETER'S *FRIEND*, FROM *HARRY*.

NOW WASN'T THAT JUST THE *SWEETEST* THING?

...SEE, NORMIE? UNCLE MARK IS JUST FINE.

YOU SURE?

POSITIVELY IT WAS ALL A LITTLE GAME--

--WASN'T IT, UNCLE MARK?

YEAH SURE, NORM. JUST A LITTLE GAME.

OF COURSE IT WAS. NOW WHY DON'T WE ALL GO BACK OVER TO THE TABLE--AND START OUR DINNER.

I'VE BEEN COOKING ALL DAY. WANTED EVERYTHING TO BE JUST RIGHT FOR MY FAMILY

WHAT'RE WE EATING?

WELL, I'VE MADE ALL KINDS OF FUN GROWN-UP FOOD FOR MOMMY AND UNCLE MARK... BUT FOR YOU, LITTLE GUY, I'VE COOKED UP YOUR VERY FAVORITE.

SPAGHETTI AND MEAT-BALLS?

HOW'D YOU GUESS?

THAT SEAT NICE AND COMFORTA-BLE, UNCLE MARK?

YEAH... JUST GREAT.

LIZ?

LIZ? COME ON, HONEY. WE DON'T WANT OUR DINNER TO GET COLD, DO WE?

NORMIE WHY DON'T YOU ASK MOMMY TO SIT DOWN? SHE'LL DO IT IF YOU ASK.

MOMMY...PLEASE COME SIT NEXT T ME AN' DADDY--!

THERE! THAT'S BETTER! ALL OF US TOGETHER, GATHERED 'ROUND THE TABLE.

BUT MOMMY'S STILL A LITTLE UPSET, ISN'T SHE? AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

DON'T LET THE MASK BOTHER YOU, HON. UNDERNEATH--

--I'M THE SAME MAN I ALWAYS WAS.

YEAH MOMMY--DON'T BE SCARED! IT'S JUST DADDY IN A SILLY HALLOWEEN COSTUME!

I THINK IT'S FUNNY. DON'T YOU, MOMMY? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY?

NO, SWEET-HEART. NO... I DON'T.

YOU'RE...YOU'RE *RIGHT*, LIZ. IT'S *NOT* FUNNY. NOT FUNNY AT *ALL*.

IT'S REALLY VERY *SAD*, ISN'T IT? WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH?

BUT I *SWEAR* TO YOU--THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW *ERA* FOR THE OSBORNS. NO MORE SADNESS FOR *ANY* OF US.

NO MORE *PAIN*.

AFTER MY LAST ENCOUNTER WITH... WITH *SPIDER-MAN*... THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS...SO MUCH OF THE PAST...JUST SWIRLING AROUND IN MY *HEAD*.

SO MUCH THAT IT *HURT*...I THOUGHT MY BRAIN WAS GOING TO *EXPLODE*.

BUT SOMETHING *HAPPENED*... I FINALLY MADE SOME...*SENSE* OF IT ALL. HAD A *REVELATION* THAT PUT EVERYTHING INTO *PERSPECTIVE*

YOU SEE, MY FATHER...MY FATHER HAD THE RIGHT *IDEA*. THE *GOBLIN'S* PATH--THE PATH OF *POWER*--THAT *IS* THE WAY.

TO PUT ON THE *MASK*...IS TO BECOME SOMETHING *BIGGER*...SOMETHING FAR, FAR *ABOVE* ALL THOSE PATHETIC WEAKLINGS OUT THERE WHOSE LIVES ARE SO UTTERLY *MEANINGLESS*

BUT THE ONE MAJOR *MISTAKE* MY FATHER MADE--WAS IN NEGLECTING HIS *FAMILY*.

IN BECOMING SO *OBSESSED* WITH HIS LIFE AS THE GOBLIN--

--THAT HE LEFT *ME* BEHIND.

WELL *I'M* NOT GOING TO MAKE THE SAME *MISTAKE!*

YES, I'LL BE THE GOBLIN .. I *HAVE* TO BE! IT'S MY *INHERITANCE!* BUT I *SWEAR* TO YOU--

--*THIS* GREEN GOBLIN ISN'T GOING TO *HURT* THE PEOPLE HE LOVES!

LIZ...YOU AND NORMAN...YOU'RE MY WHOLE *LIFE*. I CAN'T...I *WON'T*... LIVE WITHOUT YOU.

AND MARK...YOU'RE LIKE A *BROTHER* TO ME. WITH YOUR INCREDIBLE POWER WORKING FOR THE FAMILY... THERE'S NO TELLING *HOW* FAR WE CAN GO...HOW MUCH WE'LL BE ABLE TO *ACCOMPLISH*.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M *SAYING*? *THIS* TIME...THIS TIME WE'RE IN IT *TOGETHER!* THE OSBORN LEGACY ISN'T JUST *MINE*--IT BELONGS TO *ALL* OF US!

ALL OF US!

HE'S HERE.

I SHOULD'VE *KNOWN.*

THE OLD FAMILY *HOMESTEAD.* WHERE HARRY GREW *UP.* WHERE NORMAN HATCHED HIS SICK LITTLE *SCHEMES.*

HARRY AND LIZ TRIED *LIVING* HERE A WHILE BACK... AND IT WAS A *DISASTER.* HARRY COULDN'T TAKE THE MEMORIES THEY WERE BACK IN MANHATTAN IN A FLASH.

BUT I GUESS THE MEMORIES *FOLLOWED* HIM-

-AND DRAGGED HIM *HOME.*

WHERE *ARE* YOU, HAR? CLOSE I CAN *FEEL* IT.

DANGER-SENSE IS BUZZING TO BEAT THE BAND.

THERE.

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD CLOSE MY EYES AND *WISH* EVERYTHING BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS *BEFORE.* MAKE HARRY *HAPPY* AGAIN. MAKE US *FRIENDS* AGAIN.

TRUTH IS, THOUGH, I DON'T THINK HARRY EVER WAS REALLY HAPPY. ALL THOSE DEMONS WERE ALWAYS THERE *INSIDE* HIM--

--JUST *WAITING* TO BREAK--

--FREE...?!

GOTCHA!

RATATATATAT

OH, NO, HARRY--

GOTCHA! GOTCHA! GOTCHA!

RAT

TAT

TATAT

--YOU HAVEN'T "GOT" ME--

RRRRIPP

GOTCHAGOTCHA-GOTCHAGOTCHA

KROKKK

--AND YOU NEVER *WILL!*

SO WHAT'S NEXT? WHAT NEW NIGHTMARE'S GONNA POP OUT OF THE CORNER?

C'MON, HARRY! THESE GAMES HAVE GONE ON LONG *ENOUGH!*

STOP *HIDING!*

SHOW YOURSELF!

SHOW YOUR--

HERE?! YOU HAVE THE *AUDACITY* TO COME *HERE?!*

INVADING MY *HOME* ..THE SANCTITY OF MY *FAMILY!*

DON'T YOU *HAVE ANY DECENCY?!*

CONSIDERING WHAT *YOU'VE* BEEN UP TO LATELY, HARRY-- I COULD ASK YOU THE *SAME THING.*

AND, PLEASE... DON'T ACT *SURPRISED* TO SEE ME. YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME. YOU WERE *READY* FOR ME,

OR DID THAT GUN-TOTING GOBLIN COME WITH THE *HOUSE?*

A... *SECURITY* DEVICE I HAVE MANY ENEMIES. *YOU* FOREMOST AMONG THEM.

THE MAN OF POWER MUST *ALWAYS* BE PREPARED.

SIGH WELL... YOU'RE *HERE* NOW. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN *DO* ABOUT IT.

SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME *IN.* SIT *DOWN.* THERE'S QUITE A BIT WE HAVE TO *TALK* ABOUT--

--STARTING WITH .. HOW YOU *FOUND* ME.

I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING. HE REALLY DIDN'T *EXPECT* ME. *GOOD.* I NEED EVERY LITTLE ADVANTAGE I CAN GET.

LET'S JUST LEAVE THAT... MY LITTLE *SECRET.*

SECRETS ARE *DANGEROUS*... SPIDER-MAN. THEY'RE LIKE *RATS* HIDING IN THE SHADOWS. JUST WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.. THEY COME SWARMING OUT--

--AND *DEVOUR* YOU.

OH BUT *WHERE* ARE MY MANNERS? SIT. *SIT.*

YOU'LL BE OUR *GUEST OF HONOR.*

SIT? WHAT ELSE *CAN* I DO? WITH LIZ AND LITTLE NORMAN HERE... I CAN'T JUST LEAP ACROSS THE TABLE AND ATTACK HIM. AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I *WANT* TO.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I SHOULD DO! HOW DO I *HANDLE* THIS?

WELL, COME ON, EVERYONE. DIG IN I SLAVED OVER A HOT STOVE ALL *DAY*--

--AND EVERYTHING WILL BE *RUINED* IF IT GETS *COLD.*

ONE THING'S FOR SURE. HE'S CRAZIER THAN THE *LAST* TIME.

DIDN'T YOU *HEAR* ME? I SAID-- --*EAT!!!*

A *LOT* CRAZIER. HE SOUNDS JUST LIKE HIS *FATHER*: THE SAME *ANGER* IN HIS VOICE; THE SAME BRUTAL *EDGE.*

WELL, CHANCES ARE HE'S NOT GOING TO GET *TOO* FAR OUT OF CONTROL WITH HIS WIFE AND SON HERE... I *HOPE.*

AT LEAST I HAVE RAXTON FOR *BACK-UP.* BUT HE'S IN THE SAME BOAT *I* AM

HE DOESN'T WANT HARRY HURT... HE DOESN'T WANT TO *ENDANGER* LIZ AND NORMAN.

SO... WHAT NEXT?

EAT, I GUESS.

AND *WAIT.*

ACTUALLY...IT'S A *GOOD THING* THAT YOU'RE HERE SPIDER-MAN.

I WANT YOU TO SEE US... SEE THE *OSBORNS*...THE WAY WE WERE ALWAYS *MEANT* TO BE UNITED. HAPPY.

YOU *HATE* THAT DON'T YOU?

HATE IT? WHY SHOULD I?

BECAUSE, FOR YEARS, YOU'VE BEEN HAUNTING US... *HOUNDING* US. YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO DESTROY MY FAMILY--TURN US *AGAINST* EACH OTHER.

THAT'S NOT TRUE, HARRY-- AND YOU *KNOW* IT.

OH, I THINK IT IS.

I'M SOMETHING OF AN ARMCHAIR PSYCHOLOGIST. AND I'D JUST BET YOU WERE *ABANDONED* BY YOUR PARENTS AT AN EARLY AGE--

--PERHAPS SHUNTED OFF TO RELATIVES WHO DIDN'T *WANT* YOU.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED THE OSBORNS BECAUSE WE HAVE WHAT YOU NEVER DID...ISN'T THAT *RIGHT*? YOU RESENT *ANYONE* WHO HAS THE LOVE THAT WAS DENIED YOU.

YOU DON'T *KNOW* ME. YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING *ABOUT* ME.

OH, YES I *DO*. I KNOW YOU ALMOST AS WELL AS I KNOW *MYSELF*.

IS THIS WHERE HE *DOES* IT? ANNOUNCES TO RAXTON AND THE OTHERS THAT PETER PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN?

I ALMOST WISH HE *WOULD*. LET THE RATS OUT OF THE SHADOWS ONCE AND FOR *ALL*.

LOOK *AROUND*...SPIDER-MAN. A GOOD, *LONG* LOOK. DO YOU SEE WHAT A STRONG, FUNCTIONING *FAMILY* THE OSBORNS ARE?

DO YOU SEE THAT ALL YOUR DESPERATE EFFORTS TO *RUIN* EVERYTHING MY FATHER WORKED A LIFETIME TO BUILD--

--HAVE ENDED IN *FAILURE*?

THAT'S IT, HARRY!

YOU YAMMER ON AND ON ABOUT A HAPPY FAMILY--WHEN YOUR *WIFE'S* SITTING THERE ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN--

--WHEN YOU'RE HURTING YOUR SON MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER *IMAGINE*?!

RAXTON--NO!

THIS IS JUST WHAT I DIDN'T *WANT*. ATTACKED, HARRY MIGHT LOSE WHAT LITTLE CONTROL HE HAS--

--LIZ AND NORMAN MIGHT GET *HURT*.

YOU'RE SICKER THAN I *THOUGHT*--AND YOU'VE GOTTA BE *STOPPED*!

AND IF *I* JUMP IN TO STOP IT, HARRY MIGHT GET EVEN *WILDER*. *MORE* OUT OF CONTROL.

BUT IF I *DON'T*--

Y'KNOW I'M *GLAD* I ACTIVATED THAT ELECTRONIC *TRACER* SPIDER-MAN GAVE ME--'CAUSE, WITH *HIM* HERE, THERE'S NO *WAY* THAT YOU CAN--

FLLAKK

YOU?!

YOU LED HIM HERE?!

YOU SCUM! YOU WORTHLESS *SCUM*! YOU SIDED WITH *HIM*!

YOU BETRAYED THE *FAMILY*!

WHA KK!

I SHOULD'VE *EXPECTED* IT! YOU'RE NOT *BLOOD*! YOU'RE NOT AN *OSBORN*!

LOOK AT THE WAY HARRY'S *POUNDING* AT HIM. HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO *DO* THAT! HE DOESN'T HAVE THE *POWER*!

AT LEAST HE NEVER DID *BEFORE*--

KRAKKK!

ENOUGH, HARRY.

THIS HAS GOT TO *END.*

THAT'S IT. TRY TO SOUND STRONG

TO-NIGHT.

CAN'T LET HIM KNOW HOW *SCARED* I AM. HOW FULL OF *DOUBT.*

WE'RE *LEAVING*, HARRY YOU'RE COMING *WITH* ME.

I'M GETTING YOU *HELP.*

HOW *WORRIED* I AM ABOUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO MY LIFE... TO THE PEOPLE I *LOVE*... IF HE REVEALS MY SECRET TO THE WORLD

I DON'T *NEED* ANY HELP!!

SZZZ

YOU THINK I'M *CRAZY*, DON'T YOU? YOU THINK *ALL* THE OSBORNS ARE CRAZY! YOU HATED MY FATHER...AND YOU HATE *ME*! ISN'T THAT *TRUE*, LIZ? *ISN'T* IT?!

YES, *NO*! OH, GOD -- I JUST WANT TO SEE YOU GET *BETTER*. I JUST WANT MY HARRY *BACK* AGAIN.

WHO TURNED YOU *AGAINST* ME? YOUR DECEITFUL *BROTHER*? SPIDER-MAN? WHO TURNED YOU AGAINST THE *FAMILY*?!

ANSWER ME!!

HARRY... *DON'T*. *PLEASE*... IF NOT FOR ME... THEN FOR *NORMAN*--

YES, NORMAN. MY *SWEET* LITTLE NORMAN SON--

--DO YOU THINK DADDY'S CRAZY?

I DON'T THINK YOU RE CRAZY, DADDY.

I *LOVE* YOU!

THAT'S MY BOY!

AFTER ALL-- WHAT DOES YOUR STUPID *MOTHER* KNOW?

SHE'S NOT REALLY AN OSBORN. EITHER. SHE DOESN T HAVE OSBORN *BLOOD* IN HER VEINS.

SHE'S NOT ONE OF US!

HARRY, I'M *BEGGING* YOU-- THINK OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOUR *FAMILY.*

STOP THIS. NOW. DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE THAN THEY ALREADY *ARE.*

OH... *SNEAKY* LITTLE SPIDER I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *UP* TO!

(DANGER-SENSE BUZZING)

TRYING TO TAKE MY *SON* AWAY!

NO OF *COURSE* I'M NOT I--

(SOMETHING COMING --*BEHIND* ME.)

LIAR! YOU TURNED *LIZ* AGAINST ME--AND NOW YOU WANT TO POISON *NORMAN'S* HEART, TOO!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY *SHAME?!* ISN'T IT BAD *ENOUGH*--

(IF I PUCK- HARRY--OR *NORMAN* --COULD GET HIT--!)

"--THAT YOU LET GWEN STACY DIE--

"--AND THEN KILLED MY *FATHER?!*"

NO! THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT *HAPPENED!* I--

KA-

-POW

GOTTA HAND IT TO HIM. HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT *BUTTONS* TO PUSH MADE ME HESITATE . JUST LONG *ENOUGH*... FOR HIM TO *NAIL* ME--

THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD'VE ENDED *THEN*. WITH YOU WRITHING IN AGONY ON THE TIP OF THAT BLOODY SPEAR... INSTEAD OF MY *FATHER*!

YOU GO ON ACROSS THE ROOM TO *MOMMY* NORMAN

O-OKAY DADDY

TOO BAD MY GLIDER DOESN'T HAVE A SPEAR-END.

BUT NOW, THAT I THINK OF IT THAT'S OKAY.

I'D *MUCH* RATHER KILL YOU WITH MY *BARE HANDS!*

WHAK!

IDIOT! YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE *RID* OF MY FATHER--BUT NORMAN OSBORN IS STILL *ALIVE!*

HIS LIFE . HIS *LEGACY* IS COURSING THROUGH MY VEINS RIGHT *NOW!*

SPKOW!

DO YOU *UNDERSTAND*, YOU FOOL? I *FOUND* IT! THE STRENGTH-ENHANCEMENT FORMULA THEY'VE ALL BEEN *SEARCHING* FOR SINCE MY FATHER DIED!

SSSLZAXX

AND IT WAS RIGHT HERE IN THIS HOUSE!

KHUNK

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF FEELING SO *SMALL*... SO *HELPLESS*.. I'M FINALLY *ABOVE* THEM ALL! I'VE GOT THE POWER TO CRUSH *YOU*--CRUSH *ANYONE* WHO GETS IN MY WAY! NOW... AT LONG LONG LAST--

I TRULY AM THE *GREEN GOBLIN!!*

NO, YOU'RE NOT!!

BA-AM!

YOU'RE A VERY SAD... AND VERY SICK... MAN--

--WHO'S HURT HIM-SELF... AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES HIM--

--FOR FAR TOO LONG!

KRAA-AK!!

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT DO YOU? YOU STILL THINK I'M THAT SCARED AND BUMBLING LITTLE WEAKLING!

WELL, GET THIS STRAIGHT, MY DEAR OLD FRIEND-- THE HARRY OSBORN YOU'VE KNOWN ALL THESE YEARS IS DEAD! DEAD AND BURIED!

LONG LIVE THE GREEN GOBLIN!

K-THO-

OOM!

KR-OOM!

KER-SMACK!

CHUKK

I KNOW YOU LIKE A BOOK. INSIDE AND OUT. IN A WAY, YOU'RE WEAKER THAN *I* USED TO BE!

ALWAYS SO BUSY *WORRYING*... SO FULL OF GUILT AND CONCERN-- THAT YOU CAN'T *ACT!*

YOU'RE FROZEN WITH FEAR-- *TERRIFIED* THAT WHATEVER MOVE YOU MAKE WILL BE THE *WRONG* ONE—AND SOME POOR INNOCENT SOUL WILL *SUFFER*--!

YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT *ME*--OH, NO! BUT YOU DON'T WANT THE BIG BAD GOBLIN TO HURT THE PEOPLE YOU *LOVE*, EITHER!

SO INSTEAD OF DOING SOMETHING, YOU JUST STAND THERE AND TAKE IT AND TAKE IT AND TAKE IT!
A PATHETIC DEATH--
-FOR A PATHETIC MAN!
NO!
I WON'T SPEND MY LIFE LIVING IN FEAR OF YOU BEING MANIPULATED BY YOU
I'M NOT LETTING YOU DO THIS ANYMORE! NOT TO ME.. NOT TO YOUR FAMILY.. AND NOT TO YOURSELF!
DO YOU HEAR ME?!

NOT ANY MORE!!

KOOO

SO GO *AHEAD*. HAR-- *TELL* THE WORLD WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME. SCREAM IT FROM THE *ROOFTOPS*. I'LL *DEAL* WITH IT.

GOD KNOWS--

--I'VE HAD TO DEAL WITH *WORSE*.

WEBBING SHOULD *HOLD* H M FOR A WHILE.

BUT.. WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?*

GO UPSTAIRS, LIZ CALL THE *POLICE*

THE *POLICE!* NO.. NO I *CAN'T!* I *LOVE* HIM! *HOW* CAN YOU ASK ME TO --

DO IT--

--*BECAUSE* YOU LOVE HIM.

RAXTON .?

HUH ? WHA

YOU OKAY?

THINK SO. BUT I FEEL LIKE A FOOL. HOW'D I LET 'IM *NAIL* ME LIKE THAT?

MAYBE-- BECAUSE YOU JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE *HEART* TO FIGHT BACK--

MAYBE.

CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN?

YEAH, I *THINK* SO. BUT WHAT ABOUT LIZ AND THE KID?

LIZ WENT UPSTAIRS, I'LL TAKE CARE OF--

--*NORMAN.*

...GUYS AT THE *VAULT* SAID TH S H GH-TECH STRAIT JACKET COULD HOLD THE *HULK*- SO I DON T THINK *THIS* GUY'LL BE MUCH TROUBLE--!

TROUBLE? *ME?* PERISH THE THOUGHT. BUT I WONDER IF I COULD... *SAY* A FEW WORDS BEFORE I GO--

GET IN THE *VAN*, OSBORN-- AND KEEP YOUR MOUTH SH--

NO. *WAIT* LET HIM TALK

GO *AHEAD*. I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

OH, *NO?* WE'LL SEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN -AND CH LDREN OF ALL AGES I HAVE A *VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT* TO MAKE!

I KNOW THE *IDENTITY* OF THE MAN BEHIND THE *MASK!*

I KNOW WHO SPIDER-MAN IS!

AND I M GOING TO TELL THE *WORLD*--

BUT NOT JUST YET

HAHAHAHA!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH!

CHUD

THE DOORS SLAM SHUT WITH DISTURBING FINALITY.

THE STREETS ARE QUICKLY CLEARED.

BUT STILL, SOMEHOW...

...THE GREEN GOBLIN'S LAUGHTER...

..ECHOES...

...ON.

THE END

SOMETIMES

IN THE LONELY HOURS

BE-TWEEN MID-NIGHT

AND DAWN

SHE HEARS THE THUNDER.

STAN LEE presents.

The NIGHT The World DIED

by
J.M. DEMATTEIS
&
BOB McLEOD

JOE ROSEN, LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY COLORIST
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GUNFIRE. SCREAMING. THE DULL THUD OF HER HUSBAND'S BODY AS IT HITS THE FLOOR

ALL OF IT ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES AS SHE FIGHTS HER WAY UP, OUT OF THE NIGHTMARE.

HOW MANY PARKER WONDERS CAN THE WORLD AROUND HER BE SO STILL... SO SERENE WHEN THERE'S SUCH CHAOS IN HER HEAD?

SHE LOOKS AT THE CLOCK- 4 A.M. --THEN SHRUGS WITH PRACTICED RESIGNATION.

SHE'S BEEN THROUGH THIS ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO GO BACK TO SLEEP WILL BE FRUITLESS.

SO SHE GLIDES GHOST-LIKE THROUGH A HOUSE THAT SUDDENLY SEEMS AS EMPTY, AS PAINFULLY SOLITARY, AS A TOMB.

THE LINE BETWEEN SLEEP AND WAKING, PAST AND FUTURE, BLURS IN THESE TWILIGHT HOURS:

MAY SITS, TRAPPED, BETWEEN NOW AND THEN...

...FEELING BEN'S HAND AGAINST HER FACE: HIS FLESH UNNATURALLY HOT.

YET HIS TOUCH IS SO TENDER, SO LOVING AND GENTLE.

EVEN

AS

HE

DIES.

SO MANY YEARS LATER-- AND IT'S STILL HARD FOR HER TO BELIEVE THAT IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED WAS HER HUSBAND REALLY MURDERED IN FRONT OF HER EYES?

DID SHE REALLY FEEL HIS BLOOD POOLING AROUND HER; SEE THE SPARK OF LIFE FADE AND THEN VANISH FROM HIS EYES?

SHE SAT IN THE HOUSE FOR HOURS AFTERWARDS, NUMB AND DISBELIEVING, NOT EVEN AWARE OF THE POLICE MILLING ABOUT...

...TILL SHE HEARD ONE SAY THAT THEY'D FOUND THE BURGLAR HOLED UP IN A WAREHOUSE OVER ON SUTTER STREET.

SHE RAN, THEN-- NOT THINKING, A COMPULSION, REALLY. RAN TO CONFRONT THE MONSTER WHO'D DONE THIS.

WHO, IN ONE SENSELESS MOMENT, HAD MURDERED HER ENTIRE WORLD.

THE MONSTER: DEATH HIMSELF.

WHITE EYES FLOATING IN THE SHADOWS, BORING ARROGANTLY, SHAMELESSLY, DEEP INTO HER SOUL.

AND THOSE EYES HELD THE PROMISE OF MORE DEATH.

"I'LL BE BACK," THEY SEEMED TO SAY; "FOR EVERYONE ELSE YOU LOVE AND HOLD DEAR.

"I'LL BE BACK."

THE NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED THAT THE SHADOW-THING WAS NO MONSTER, JUST A COSTUMED ADVENTURER NAMED SPIDER-MAN. BUT MAY KNEW BETTER.

TIME PROVED HER RIGHT.

GWEN DIED...AND HE WAS THERE. NATHAN DIED... AND HE WAS THERE. PETER WAS SWEPT AWAY ON DEATH'S WINGS AND...

...SPIDER-MAN SAVED HIM?

SHE COULDN'T ARGUE WITH THE FACTS, HOWEVER BAFFLING: HE'D STOPPED THE VULTURE AND BROUGHT HER NEPHEW BACK TO HER, SAFE AND SOUND.

WHEN SPIDER-MAN CAME TO THE DOOR THAT MORNING, HER FEAR WAS STILL THERE-- STRONGER THAN EVER...

...SO WHAT POSSESSED HER TO KISS HIM, SO GENTLY; TO THANK HIM WITH ALL HER HEART FOR EVERYTHING HE'D DONE?

PERHAPS IT WAS THE SHY WAY HE STOOD THERE, OR THE SOFTNESS AND RESPECT IN HIS VOICE. OR PERHAPS...

PERHAPS THE TIME HAD COME TO ACKNOWLEDGE A TRUTH SHE'D BEEN RUNNING FROM FOR YEARS.

A TRUTH SHE SHE CAN DARE TO ADMIT TO HERSELF ONLY NOW:

IT WAS THE "MONSTER" WHO CAPTURED BEN'S KILLER. IT WAS THE "MONSTER" WHO BROUGHT THE FIRST HINT OF ORDER TO THAT BLOODY AND CHAOTIC NIGHT.

A PART OF HER IS STILL RUNNING FROM THAT TRUTH, WILL MOST LIKELY RUN FOREVER BUT ANOTHER PART KNOWS AND WILL NEVER FORGET:

SPIDER-MAN WASN'T PART OF HER NIGHTMARE, OF THE DEATH OF HER WORLD. NO...

...HE WAS THE FIRST TREMBLING STEP...

...ON THE LONG ROAD BACK.

C.VESS·92